## Message Text

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**ACTION AF-18** 

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AID-20 COME-00 SSO-00 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: BEXP, GB

SUBJ: GOG INVITATION FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND

RAILROAD INAUGURAL CEREMONY

**REF: LIBREVILLE 1138** 

1. RECOMMEND THAT, ONCE DECISION TAKEN IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING U.S. REPRESENTATIVE FOR DECEMBER 30 INAUGURAL CEREMONY FOR TRANSGABON RAILROAD, TELEGRAM BE SENT FROM PRESIDENT NIXON TO PRESIDENT BONGO (EITHER THROUGH EMBASSY OR DIRECTLY WITH COPY TO EMBASSY) DESIGNATING PERSON CHOSEN TO REPRESENT U.S. AND EXTENDING CORDIAL BIRTHDAY WISHES TO PRESIDENT BONGO, WITH PASSING REFERENCE TO USEFUL AND FRIENDLY MEETING HELD BETWEEN TWO PRESIDENTS ON AUGUST 2.

2. REALIZE THAT PRESIDENTIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS ARE NOT REPEAT NOT NORMALLY SENT ON ORDINARY BIRTHDAYS. BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT COMBINATION OF PRESIDENT BONGO'S BIRTHDAY WITH INAUGURAL CEREMONY FOR TRANSGABON RAILROAD WARRANTS EXCEPTION. SEVERAL OTHER AMBASSADORS HAVE TOLD ME THAT THEIR GOVERNMENTS SENDING BIRTHDAY WISHES ALONG WITH THEIR REPLIES TO INVITATION FOR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND DECEMBER 30 INAUGURAL CEREMONIES. SUCH MESSAGES ARE INVARIABLY CARRIED OVER LOCAL PRESS AND RADIO MEDIA AND PROVIDE USEFUL PROPAGANDA. DO NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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REPEAT NOT BELIEVE THAT EXTENDING BIRTHDAY WISHES TO

PRESIDENT BONGO THIS YEAR WOULD SET ANY PRECEDENT FOR YEARS TO COME. IN VIEW OF FACT THAT TELEGRAM WOULD COMBINE REPLY TO INVITATION TO SEND REPRESENTATIVE ALONG WITH BIRTHDAY WISHES DO NOT BELIEVE THERE ANY NEED TO DELAY TELEGRAM WHICH COULD BE SENT WHENEVER DECISION REACHED IN WASHINGTON CONCERNING SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVE. FURTHER INQUIRIES HAVE REVEALED THAT ONLY FRENCH AND FED WILL SEND REPRESENTATIVES FROM ABROAD.

MCKESSON

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED** 

Concepts: n/a Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 20 DEC 1973 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED

Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973| IBREV01154

Document Number: 1973LIBREV01154 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A Film Number: n/a From: LIBREVILLE Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731213/aaaaajqv.tel Line Count: 71 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE Office: ACTION AF

Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE Original Handling Restrictions: n/a

Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: LIBREVILLE 1138 Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: golinofr

Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09 JAN 2002

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <28-Jan-2002 by golinofr>

**Review Markings:** 

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: GOG INVITATION FOR U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO ATTEND RAILROAD INAUGURAL CEREMONY

TAGS: BEXP, GB To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005